



**United States Border Patrol
San Diego Sector
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PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Border Patrol Announces Voluntary Identification Program (VIP)

El Cajon, California: Today the Border Patrol announced the Voluntary Identification Program, better known as “VIP.” Earlier this year the San Diego Sector launched the “Good Neighbor Initiative” in an effort to engage local residents and to further foster relationships with the community. The VIP is a program designed as a result of input from the community, to address the concerns of the community and the needs of law enforcement.

When East County residents suggested that a program identifying them as residents might be beneficial to themselves and agents, we examined the idea and devised the Voluntary Identification Program. The VIP is a voluntary program by which qualifying residents receive a decal identifying them as VIP participants. The decal does not confer or convey any legal rights to the participants; it simply facilitates the identification of local residents at both our checkpoints and in our communities.

The El Cajon and Campo Border Patrol Stations began accepting applications for VIP participants in June. Members of either the El Cajon or Campo community relations unit will contact individuals who have been approved. Interested participants can sign-up at our Mobile Community Storefront. The Mobile Community Storefront will be located at the Portrero Post Office from August 23, 2000 through September 2, 2000, Tuesday through Saturday from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. For additional information contact a Community Relations Officer at either (619) 557-5072 for the El Cajon area or (619) 478-5927 ext. 308 if in the Pine Valley, Jacumba, Campo, Mount Laguna, Descanso, Boulevard or Guatay areas.